

Utahn invented microdot that aids police

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Police are on the cutting edge of technology in identifying and recovering stolen property, thanks to microscopic identification dots invented by a Utah nurse anesthetist.

The dot, no bigger than the head of a pin, was recently used in a five-month undercover fencing sting in Seattle.

Using the dots to mark and later identify the property, Seattle police recovered more than \$160,000 in stolen goods. Five people were arrested.

"We didn't really know what part the dots would or would not play, but they ended up being a very significant piece of evidence," said inventor Charles Loving.

The dots are made of archive-quality polyester microfilm. Each contains five rows of six-digit numbers visible only under a microscope.

After the dots are applied to valuable goods, numerical codes unique to each customer are recorded in the archives of Loving's business, Micro Indicia Technologies Inc., based in Stansbury Park.

Loving said a trained technician can mark the valuables in an average home for about \$400. The dots are glued to property, or tucked into screw holes or other small crevices.

If the property is stolen, it can be identified by the numerical codes on the dots. The dots also can cling to a suspect's clothing

or auto interior, providing evidence that can link that suspect to a particular theft.

"They're not perfectly smooth," Loving explained. "They have a tendency to imbed themselves like little Velcro hooks. Other than the red-ink bombs they put in bank bags, this is the only product on the market that leaves a trail of evidence."

Loving said he came up with the idea about two years ago while driving a lonesome stretch of highway outside Tucumcari, N.M., on his way home from a vacation in Texas.

"It was running through my mind. What's needed? What's a needed product? Then I thought 'Theft is a big problem,'" he said.

Not five minutes later, Loving dreamed up the microscopic

dots.

But it took nearly a year for Loving to find a manufacturer to create his invention. Ironically, Loving found the solution in his own back yard — Hybrid Micrographics, a Utah-based company that makes microfilm equipment for Kodak.

The product is sold through distributors and should be available in the Salt Lake area within 45 days, Loving said.

The dots have sold well in the Northwest, and the product is being test marketed in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Pacific Rim companies also are interested in the product.

Loving said he believes insurance companies will eventually offer discounts to home and business owners who mark their valuables with the tiny dots.

16 patents awarded

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By Barton J. Howell



PATENTS

Eleven inventions and five designs gained patents.

Wallace E. Trammell, Provo. Hyperbaric oxygenation apparatus and methods. Assigned to Ballard Medical Products, Midvale. Patent 5,029,579.

Thomas A. Clark, Midvale. Book holder device. Patent 5,029,798.

William T. Dalebout and S. Ty Measom, Logan, and Scott R. Waterson, River Heights. Adjustable incline system for exercise equipment. Assigned to Proform Fitness Products Inc., Logan. Patent 5,029,801.

John W. Babcock, Huntsville. A soil retaining wall. Assigned to Earth Structures Inc., Fort Collins, Colo. Patent 5,030,035.

K. Clark Christensen, Centerville; Neal Davis II, Katy, Texas; and Michael Nuzzolo, Salt Lake City. Water-wettable drilling mud additives containing uitaite. Assigned to Chevron Research Co., San Francisco. Patent 5,030,365.

Gail L. A. Bowers-Irons, Salt Lake City, and John R. Pease, Kearns. A method of leaching selected metal compounds from integrated circuits. Assigned to Technical Research Inc., Salt Lake City. Patent 5,030,425.

Gail L. A. Bowers-Irons, Salt Lake City; John R. Pease, Kearns; Quynh K. Tran, Tracy Gibb and Robert J. Pryor, Salt Lake City; and Sandra Haddad, Centerville.

Biomining of gallium and germanium containing ores. Assigned to Technical Research Inc. Patent 5,030,426.

Errol P. EerNisse, Salt Lake City. Mounting structure for crystal resonator. Assigned to Quartztronics Inc., Salt Lake City. Patent 5,030,876.

John C. Clegg, Provo. Means for preventing damage to electronic ballasts as a result of failure of gas discharge lamps. Assigned to Brigham Young University, Provo. Patent 5,030,892.

Paul D. Israelsen, North Logan. Method and apparatus for vector quantizer parallel processing. Assigned to Utah State University Foundation, Logan. Patent 5,031,037.

Robert T. Short, Salt Lake City; Craig K. Rushforth, Kaysville; and Zhenhun Xie, Salt Lake City. Decoder for added asynchronous bit sequences. Assigned to Unisys Corp., Blue Bell, Pa. Patent 5,031,173.

Paul D. Wightman, Logan. Bottle rack or similar article. Design patent 317,990.

Donald E. Moriarty, Orem; Everett Mok, Valinda, Calif.; and April S. Moriarty, Orem. Multipurpose vehicle. Assigned to Futura Propulsion Systems, Mission Viejo, Calif. Design patent 318,031.

Donald E. Moriarty, Orem, and Everett Mok, Valinda, Calif. Pick-up truck. Assigned to Futura Propulsion Systems. Design patent 318,034.

Curt G. Bingham and William T. Dalebout, Logan. Exercise cycle. Assigned to Proform Fitness Products Inc. Design patent 318,086.

Utahns receive patents for 7 inventions, 1 design

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PATENTS

Utah inventors were awarded patents for seven inventions and one design.

Douglas S. Larsen, Layton. A combined article of clothing, comprising an upper and a lower garment.

Filed June 15, 1990. Patent 5,033,121.

Carl A. Rupp, Salt Lake City. A balloon filler using an evacuation housing. Filed Mar. 19, 1990. Patent 5,033,256.

Roy T. Minert, Brigham City; Larry K. Hansen, Sandy; George T. Kirchoff, Brigham City; and Donald R. Lauritsen, Hyrum. A trilevel performance gas generator. Assigned to Morton International, Inc., Chicago, Ill. Filed Nov. 13, 1989. Patent 5,033,390.

F. Budd Ferre, Rowell Sims, Vihbert L. Kesler and James B. Mayfield, all of Salt Lake City. Manual,

self-contained, free-standing, vehicle washing/cleaning center. Assigned to Autoglym America Corporation, Salt Lake City. Filed Apr. 20, 1990, a continuation of application Aug. 8, 1989 and patent 4,880,026. Patent 5,033,489.

David J. Washburn and Glenn L. Enke, both of Orem. Low profile self-propelled vehicle and method for converting a normal profile vehicle to a low profile. Assigned to David J. Washburn, Orem. Filed Dec. 11, 1989. Patent 5,033,567.

Michael J. Beeley, Logan. Cleat assembly for endless track vehicle. Assigned to Logan Manufacturing Company, Logan. Filed Sep. 8, 1986. Patent 5,033,801.

Stephen J. Robison, Fillmore. A particulate material mixing system. Filed Aug. 17, 1990. Patent 5,033,862.

J. Larry Marriott, Provo. A pacifier shield. Assigned to Marri-Tots, Inc., Springville. Filed Oct. 11, 1988. Design patent 318,530.

Copies of patents are available by number for \$1.50 from Box 9, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231.